

Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership Annual Report

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Report Provided By:

Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families
Division for Substance Abuse Policy

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Introduction

The Arizona Substance Abuse Partnership (ASAP) serves as Arizona's single statewide council on substance abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement. Established by Executive Order in June 2007, the Partnership brings together stakeholders representing local, state and federal interests to identify effective practices and maximize available resources to combat substance abuse. Using specific, data-driven goals, ASAP devises policies and appropriate means of addressing current and emerging drug and alcohol trends that endanger the welfare of Arizona families. The 25 members of this council have diverse backgrounds in prevention, treatment and enforcement; this combined expertise enables ASAP to develop comprehensive, sustainable solutions to substance abuse problems in Arizona.

In just one year of operation under the leadership of Chair Dennis Burke, Governor Napolitano's Chief of Staff, ASAP has convened seven times and has implemented a process for reviewing budget and policy proposals. ASAP has also produced a multitude of briefing papers and research reports and has made significant progress in its four Strategic Focus Areas.

Strategic Focus Areas

On November 19, 2007, ASAP examined potential strategic focus areas and selected four areas to address in 2008. Each focus area was subsequently presented at ASAP and an Executive Action Briefing (EAB) was developed for each to outline the mission, problems, goals and action steps. The EABs were designed to measure and track the tangible impacts made in each area. These EABs became workplans for ASAP to use in coordination with its member agencies throughout the year. They also provided a baseline to determine where progress had been made and where additional planning and action was needed. In June 2008, the Strategic Focus Areas were reviewed and ASAP was provided with a report on outcomes for each area. For the action steps not yet completed, next steps were identified, as well as the agencies responsible for such action and deadlines for completion, building accountability within ASAP and its member agencies.

Strategic Focus Area 1: The Need for Enhanced Treatment within the Child Welfare System

This focus area was presented to ASAP on November 19, 2007. The mission of this focus area is to increase the State's capacity to meet the needs of families affected by substance abuse issues within the child welfare system. This focus area serves to operationalize and support Executive Order 2008-01, *"Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families Involved with Child Protective Services."* Per the Executive Order, ASAP has collected reports from each Executive Branch agency on their progress in prioritizing substance abuse funding for families involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). ASAP will submit a final report to the Governor by September 30, 2008 to summarize the actions taken pursuant to the Executive Order.

Outcomes of this focus area include:

- A revision of the Department of Economic Security's (DES) Strengths and Risk Assessment (SRA), which evaluates family functioning, to include additional questions about parental substance abuse and its impact on the ability to care for their children.
- The production of the *Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report* by the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group, a sub-committee of ASAP, the Department of Health Services/Behavioral Health Services (DHS/BHS) and the Department of Economic Security (DES). The report provided a snapshot of the State's capacity to provide substance abuse treatment services and created a baseline for analyzing and addressing gaps in services.
- The inclusion of language in DHS' Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) Contract Amendments that incorporates the prioritization of CPS families for substance abuse services. This will be effective on August 1, 2008.
- The opening of four new detoxification centers to enhance treatment capacity in the areas of Payson, Yuma, Globe, Holbrook and Winslow.
- The implementation of an automated scheduling system at the Department of Juvenile Corrections

Strategic Focus Areas

that automatically sends an email notification to CPS case workers involved with a juvenile, alerting them of scheduled events such as hearings.

- The finalization of a data sharing agreement between the Department of Corrections and DES to identify inmates with family members referred to CPS. The agencies intend to implement monthly data transfers.

Strategic Focus Area 2: The Need to Enhance Law Enforcement Capacity to Respond to the Importation of Illicit Drugs and Manufacture of Synthetic Drugs within Arizona

This focus area was presented to ASAP on January 22, 2008. The mission of this focus area is to prevent the importation and manufacture of drugs through aggressive strategies that better secure our borders and prosecute drug manufacturers and distributors. Significant progress has been made in completing the action steps in this focus area, not the least of which has been the improved and increased communication and cooperative efforts that now occur between local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies as a result of serving on ASAP.

Outcomes of this focus area include:

- The compilation of comprehensive lists of federal grants awarded to law enforcement agencies throughout the State to ensure that resources are being utilized as efficiently as possible and to determine where gaps and overlap exist.
- The creation of improved and more complete seizure maps from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Intelligence Support Center (ISC) resulting from non HIDTA-funded task force seizure data supplied by the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC).
- The development of a dynamic drug-crime map that can supply agencies with information as needed.
- The implementation of protocols and procedures for gathering information from rural and urban counties and structures for sharing intelligence.
- The addition of a representative from the Arizona National Guard, Joint Counter Narco-Terrorism Task Force to ASAP in April 2008.

- The capacity to analyze purity and price levels of all illegal narcotics has been built among Graham, Greenlee and Cochise county sheriffs with further expansion underway.
- The agreement of the Colorado River Indian Tribe to participate in the HIDTA Native American Project as a result of negotiations with ACJC and HIDTA.

Strategic Focus Area 3: The Need for Data Driven Decision Making and Policy Development

This focus area was presented to ASAP on February 28, 2008. The mission of this focus area is to identify all statewide data sources and thereby provide coordination in data collection relevant to substance abuse prevention, enforcement and treatment. An on-going and systematic analysis of data will be used to guide policy development and funding decisions. The Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group has adopted the Executive Action Briefing as its workplan and has addressed issues concerning available data, data collection and the use of data to provide relevant policy recommendations through its *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile 2007*, *The Impact of Substance Abuse: A Snapshot of Arizona 2007* and *Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report*.

Outcomes of this focus area include:

- The creation of an inventory of all data collection systems that measure substance abuse consumption behavior and the consequences resulting from such use.
- The analysis of gaps in data collection efforts.
- The collection and analysis of data on underage drinking, methamphetamine, and emerging issues.

Strategic Focus Areas

- The establishment of the Governor's Office to serve as the central location for collection and analysis of substance use/abuse information on an ad-hoc basis.

Strategic Focus Area 4: Emerging Trends and the State's Capacity to Respond

This focus area was presented to ASAP on April 24, 2008. The mission of this focus area is to identify emerging trends and enhance the State's capacity to monitor substance abuse trends and behavior in order to better respond to the needs of families and communities affected by substance abuse. Upon presentation of this focus area and the Executive Action Briefing to ASAP in late April, the Emerging Issues Sub-Committee of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group has adopted the Executive Action Briefing as its workplan. In April and June 2008, ASAP was presented with data on Risk and Protective Factors and youth prescription drug abuse, two emerging trends that will be expanded upon through an undertaking of the focus area.

PIJ-SAP Process

In its first year, ASAP successfully developed and implemented the Project Investment Justification for Substance Abuse Programs (PIJ-SAP), a coordinated statewide effort to maximize funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs. This effort ensures that state and federal monies expended for this purpose are spent in an efficient manner. All State agencies with proposals for new substance abuse programs of \$500,000 or more for FY 2010 were required to submit a PIJ-SAP to ASAP for review and recommendation. An agency must receive ASAP approval before it can include a substance abuse budget item in its formal budget request that is sent to the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budget (OSPB) and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. In this first cycle of implementation, two PIJ-SAP proposals were received and both were recommended with strong support to OSPB by ASAP.

ASAP Committees

An integral part of the work being done by ASAP is carried out at the sub-committee level. Since ASAP's creation, six sub-committees have been formed that have representation from diverse local, state and federal agencies as well as community organizations, Universities and the treatment and prevention fields. Each of the sub-committees reports to ASAP on their progress and outcomes and aligns their work with the Strategic Focus Areas.

Co-Occurring Policy Advisory Team

The Co-Occurring Policy Advisory Team (CPAT) serves as the advisory body and policy-making entity for the Arizona Co-Occurring State Incentive Grant (COSIG) through the Governor's Office for Children Youth and Families- Division for Substance Abuse Policy. The goal of this five-year SAMHSA block grant is to identify individuals in the criminal justice system with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The grant then delivers much-needed mental health and substance abuse treatment services to these individuals, increasing the infrastructure capacity to provide treatment and recovery support services.

Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group

The Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group continuously evaluates data related to substance abuse and the available resources to move the state system through a data-driven process. This is achieved through the completion of a statewide Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile of substance abuse of Arizona every other year and regularly released substance-specific reports. The Work Group representation includes statisticians and data analysts from various state agencies who collaborate and advise on the compilation of the Profile and other reports.

ASAP Committees

Emerging Issues Sub-Committee

As the methamphetamine problem in Arizona demonstrates, it has become critical to identify emerging substance use and abuse issues before they devastate our communities. This can be achieved by utilizing the expertise of practitioners as well as valuable community experience to complement the collection of data. Previously, the collection of statistical evidence has informed practice, but practice has not informed data collection to the same extent. The Emerging Issues Sub-Committee to the Epidemiology Work Group employs the experience of practitioners and others who become aware of emerging substance abuse issues to collect data related to emerging patterns and share such information in order to educate communities and help them combat substance abuse.

Methamphetamine Task Force

The Methamphetamine Task Force brings together representatives from state agencies, local government, businesses and community groups to collaborate in assessing and addressing the impact of methamphetamine statewide. Through information sharing, resource allocation and service coordination, the Task Force has developed a statewide strategy and policy recommendations sensitive to the needs of local and tribal communities. Its multidisciplinary approach to dealing with methamphetamine includes law enforcement, treatment and prevention tactics. The Task Force will reduce the availability and use of the drug through a comprehensive anti-meth initiative, and it will empower local communities by supporting a statewide coalition network. The network will maintain continuous communication between coalitions funded through the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families – Division for Substance Abuse Policy and stakeholders at the state and local levels. The development of ASAP was one of 10 Priority Recommendations in the Methamphetamine Task Force's *A Plan for Action: Addressing Arizona's Methamphetamine Crisis*.

Underage Drinking Prevention Committee

Arizona's Underage Drinking Prevention Committee was originally established to satisfy the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG) requirement that grantee states implement infrastruc-

tural change to address problematic drinking. The Committee was incorporated as a sub-committee of ASAP upon its establishment. The Committee's underage drinking initiative includes a statewide media campaign, *Draw the Line*, to change social norms that launched in October 2007 and the Statewide Underage Drinking Conference that was held in May 2007.

Workforce Development Committee

The Workforce Development Committee was formed specifically to identify and address substance abuse prevention training and technical assistance needs across Arizona. This committee is providing systematic instruction for prevention professionals and volunteers in community coalitions.

Outcomes/Reports

ASAP and its sub-committees have achieved a great deal in the past year, most specifically the institutionalization of ASAP and its sub-committee meetings and procedures. ASAP, with a membership of 25, including three ex-officio members, has met seven times since its establishment, more often than the anticipated quarterly meetings. Attendance, participation and interest have continually grown and members continue to raise the bar in their level of engagement. A group of local, state and federal law enforcement members of ASAP created an informal work group to facilitate the actions outlined in the law enforcement Strategic Focus Area, and through this informal partnership, they were able to engage more members and agencies and produce concrete outcomes for the state.

The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families - Division for Substance Abuse Policy has a staff person dedicated to ASAP that works to coordinate the body as well as to strategize and implement the program and policy recommendations that come from ASAP. As ASAP has progressed, it has spurred the institutionalization of Quarterly Update Reports for public distribution that provide an overview of ASAP's work and the Strategic Focus Areas. The Website is continually updated and is marketed in the substance abuse and law enforcement communities as a resource for important information.

ASAP is a forum for program and policy discussion with the purpose of creating the most effective and efficient substance abuse system possible. ASAP has produced issue briefs on topics such as the Second Chance Act, Screenings and Brief Interventions and Medicaid Coding and the National Drug Control Strategy.

Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report, 2008

This report addresses the fourth requirement of *Executive Order 2008-01: Enhanced Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Services for Families Involved with Child Protective Services*, which prioritizes families involved in the child welfare system for access to substance abuse treatment services. The *Substance Abuse Treatment Services Capacity Report* details Arizona's capacity to provide substance abuse treatment services to those in need of such treatment, and describes the collaborative efforts undertaken by multiple agencies to determine this information.

Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile, 2007

Every two years, the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group, staffed by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families- Division for Substance Abuse Policy, produces a statewide Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile which compiles key substance abuse-related findings. Intended for Arizona's state agencies, community coalitions, substance abuse service providers and epidemiologists—who depend on timely and accurate data to inform their decision-making processes and create effective policy—the profiles serve as a reference to develop an understanding of the impact of substance use in Arizona, including what progress has been made and what areas still require our diligent efforts.

The Impact of Substance Abuse: A Snapshot of Arizona, 2007

This document, a snapshot of the *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile, 2007*, which compiles key substance abuse-related data, draws out the most salient and timely findings. It is intended for use by policymakers, policy analysts, and other interested parties.

A Plan for Action: Addressing Arizona's Methamphetamine Crisis, 2007

Significant progress has been made since the release of *A Plan for Action* in May 2007. One notable outcome has been the creation of ASAP as the single statewide council on substance abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement. The *Methamphetamine Task Force Progress Report* will be released in late July and will include a full report of outcomes. Significant outcomes of the 10 priority recommendations include:

- The award of a three-year competitive discretionary grant of approximately \$8.3 million by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The goals of the grant are to expand capacity, support client choice and increase the array of faith-based and community based providers for clinical treatment and recovery support services. Arizona's Access to Recovery (ATR) program will develop and implement a cost-effective treatment and recovery support services voucher system for individuals with methamphetamine-related substance use disorders, who are involved in one of the participating adult drug courts and tribal communities.
- The dramatic reduction in the number of clandestine methamphetamine labs from 254 in 2002 to eight in 2007 due in part to regulatory efforts to control retail-level sales restrictions of precursor chemicals. These regulatory efforts have impacted the small-scale laboratories that purchase precursor chemicals locally.
- Arizona's selection to participate as one of only eight states in the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Initiative. This initiative will provide Arizona with the assistance and expertise of Strategic Applications International who will help establish and enhance problem-solving strategies to encourage community policing efforts to combat the use and distribution of methamphetamine.

- With funding from The Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention and oversight from the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families—Division for Substance Abuse Policy, the Pima County Meth Free Alliance developed a Neighborhood Intervention Project that engaged four drug-impacted neighborhoods with the goals of reducing crime, improving residents' quality of life, and creating sustainability for their successes. In an area of 80 percent rental property, the neighborhood associations engaged local landlords to make a commitment to make their properties meth-free zones and assisted local law enforcement in ridding the square mile area of existing criminal elements.

Next Steps

ASAP has moved quickly to establish itself as the state-wide coordinating body for substance abuse prevention, treatment and law enforcement, and has made great strides in engaging partners around the state and in achieving real outcomes to benefit people and communities affected by substance abuse.

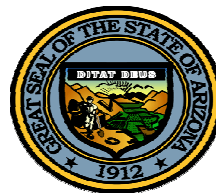
Through the implementation of its Strategic Focus Areas ASAP has been able to engage additional partners around the state, and this will continue to be essential in completing action steps and affecting change. ASAP will continue to closely monitor emerging drug trends through the implementation of these actions, a critical step in preparing the state for changes in behavior and attitude and building capacity to monitor trends.

As a member of the Eight State Combat Methamphetamine Initiative, Arizona serves as a model to other states and will continue to participate in the initiative and actively seek guidance from their experience. Representatives from Indiana attended the ASAP and Methamphetamine Task Force meetings in June to observe Arizona's state coordinating structure for substance abuse. Indiana is currently identifying ways to replicate Arizona's experience.

The work has only begun, and in July, ASAP will begin a strategic planning exercise to assess what steps need to be taken to address the problems remaining in the Strategic

Focus Areas and to evaluate additional focus areas for the coming year. Areas that have been identified as potential focus areas include prescription drug abuse, particularly among youth and the expansion and implementation of Drug Endangered Children protocols.

Recognizing the important role that communities, and especially community coalitions, play in planning and implementing substance abuse prevention, treatment and enforcement, a Community Advisory Board will be established to advise ASAP from the community perspective and provide regular reports to ASAP on coalition activities and outcomes.



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